



Welcome... to the latest newsletter of the **FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY**. Here you will find reports on progress over the past few months, events involving the Friends and other items of interest.

Please let us know if you would like information on any other topics.

You can keep up-to-date with all FoHPC activities by visiting www.fohpc.org.uk and at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FoHPC

2017 AGM

The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery held their latest Annual General Meeting on Monday 23 January 2017 where a small but enthusiastic audience attended. They enjoyed an excellent talk by Victoria Ryves and Vicky Siviter, from the *Doncaster 1914-18, At Home, At War* project, including hearing some fascinating stories of Doncaster people's extraordinary actions during WW1. There was the man who died in action only hours before the Armistice was declared, the soldier whose life was saved when his metal cigarette case stopped a bullet aimed at his heart, and the small dog who was smuggled back to Doncaster from the Western Front after the war ended and survived a further 16 years at his Wheatley home.

Following a break for refreshments, Helen Slade, FoHPC Secretary, presented the group's comprehensive annual report. Margaret Bark, Treasurer, then presented the 2015/16 accounts. Finally the officers and committee were elected for the coming year, including the election of Andria Johns to the position of Chairman. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on our website by going to <http://www.fohpc.org.uk/downloads>.

Yorkshire in Bloom 2017 entry

You might think that the Yorkshire in Bloom competition is all about flowers and colourful gardens. That's what we thought, until we were invited to look in detail at the competition's aims and objectives.

In fact, as far as open spaces such as Hyde Park Cemetery are concerned, the purpose of Yorkshire in Bloom is:



"To raise awareness of the increasing input that voluntary groups are having in the maintenance and care of sites within the community. To provide networking opportunities and support from the other similar community groups."

Having considered the matter in some detail, the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery decided to enter Yorkshire in Bloom 2017.

Judging will take place in July. In the intervening months, we would love you to come along to our Working Mornings to help us prepare for that time. Details of our Working Mornings can be found on our Events page at <http://www.fohpc.org.uk/events>.

Memorial Meadow Tidied

The Memorial Meadow at Hyde Park Cemetery acts as a natural memorial for the thousands of people who were buried there in unmarked Public graves. They were the people who often had no close family and who found themselves, for example, in the Workhouse at the end of their life. The Friends established the Memorial Meadow in the area of Public graves in Sections H & I, in particular. However, there are eight more Public grave areas in the cemetery, too.

Now that last year's growth of plants has died back, the Council grounds maintenance team have cut it down and cleared it away, ready for a new season's growth to begin in the spring.



Then and Now

We are pleased to inform you that the restoration of the Lodge is now finished and tenants have moved in. Below are pictures taken over 100 years apart. The upper picture we believe to date from around 1910, with boys from the local school standing outside. The lower one is the Lodge as it is today. As you can see, Adrian Welch the owner, has done a fantastic job, retaining as many of the original features as possible.



Pickering Grave Restoration



Following the success of the Stirling appeal and consequent restoration of other graves in the cemetery, the Friends are focusing this year on having the grave of Mr & Mrs Pickering restored.

William and Alice Pickering were an incredible couple who had a huge influence on many organisations within Doncaster and nationally.

William was His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Mines and died in the Cadeby pit disaster of 9 July 1912. On the day of the disaster he was supposed to be having tea with the King and Queen, who were visiting the area, but on hearing of the disaster, William decided, instead, to go to the site to help the miners. He and many others were sadly killed when a second explosion occurred.

Alice was an extraordinary lady who was not only a notable sports-woman (she played tennis at Wimbledon) but she also ran the Arnold's Auxiliary Hospital during WW1. It was often reported that Mrs Pickering found comfort for her own personal loss by caring for the soldiers. Alice was awarded an MBE for her wartime contributions and was decorated by the King, at Buckingham Palace. She died in 1939, in Doncaster.



The Friends are in the early stages of launching this appeal for the restoration and expect to have a clearer vision on how to proceed with the project within the next couple of months. Our aim is to restore the grave to its original condition and also, hopefully, to trace any living family members of the Pickerings.

You can make a donation towards this restoration using the Donate button on our website home page or by contacting us directly (see opposite).



Events for 2017



The Friends are delighted to be able to announce our programme of Free Guided Walks for 2017.

We have a few new and exciting themes in the calendar, which we hope will interest many people.

The Sunday afternoon Guided Walks are as follows:

30th April— *Discovering Doncaster's Past*

28th May— *Democracy in Doncaster*

25th June— *Sporting Stars*

23rd July— *WW1 Remembered*

10th September— *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*

17th Sept— *Sporting Stars* (repeat of June's event)

All the above Walks start at 3pm and are free of charge, although donations are always welcome.

In addition, our annual *Bat Walk*, with the help of the South Yorkshire Bat Group, takes place on Saturday 5 August, starting at 9pm.

Along with the Guided Walks, we are also attending the Local History Fair on Saturday 22nd April, from 11am to 4pm. Arranged by the Doncaster & District Heritage Association, the Local History Fair takes place at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, DN1 2AE.

Finally, please don't forget our monthly volunteer Working Mornings, where you can make a real difference to the upkeep of the cemetery. They take place on the second Saturday of every month, from 9:30am until 12 noon.

All these events and more can be found online at:

<http://www.fohpc.org.uk/events>.

How to Contact Us

There are many ways that you can contact the Friends and keep in touch with what is happening:

Tel: **07777-688438** (Richard Bell)

Email: **info@fohpc.org.uk**

Web: **www.fohpc.org.uk**

Twitter: **[@HydeParkCem](https://twitter.com/HydeParkCem)**

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/FoHPC**